

Appl. No. : 09/557,234
Filed : April 24, 2000

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-18. Cancelled

19. (Currently Amended) A method for removing insects from and cleaning a plant having leaves, the method comprising:

providing a hand held spraying apparatus having a handle, an elongate body portion, and a nozzle portion at a distal end of the body portion, the nozzle portion having a longitudinal axis and being adapted to direct a generally continuous water flow in a direction outwardly from the axis around substantially the entire circumference of the nozzle axis, the apparatus configured so that moving the handle correspondingly moves the nozzle portion;

providing a source of water under pressure;

placing the spraying apparatus into communication with the source of water under pressure;

positioning the nozzle adjacent an underside of a plant leaf so that a portion of the water directed by the nozzle impacts the leaf underside and the longitudinal axis of the nozzle is generally horizontally disposed at a first elevation;

advancing and retracting the nozzle generally horizontally so that a flow of water impacts the leaf underside along its length;

rotating the apparatus at least about 90° so that the longitudinal axis of the nozzle is moved to a second elevation but remains generally horizontally disposed during rotation; and

advancing and retracting the nozzle generally horizontally at the second elevation.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 19, wherein the elongate body portion is substantially straight.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 20, wherein the nozzle is adapted to direct a flow of water in a substantially vertical plane.

22. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 21, wherein the substantially vertical plane is substantially perpendicular to the nozzle portion and comprising the step of holding the elongate body in a substantially horizontal attitude.

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23. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 22, wherein the handle includes a bend point and comprising the step of adjusting the elevation of the body portion by rotating the handle about a proximal end of the handle.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 19, additionally comprising advancing and retracting the apparatus into and out of the plant at a plurality of locations so that the flow of water directed by the nozzle simultaneously impacts the top side of a first plant leaf along at least a portion of its length and the underside of a second plant leaf along at least a portion of its length.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 19, wherein the nozzle is adapted to create a substantially planar and contiguous wall of water around the circumference of the nozzle.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein the nozzle is adapted to create two or more substantially planar and contiguous walls of water around the circumference of the nozzle, the walls of water being spaced apart from each other.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 25, additionally comprising advancing and retracting the nozzle between leaves of the plant so that the portions of the wall of water simultaneously impact undersides of leaves generally above the nozzle, top sides of leaves generally below the nozzle, and any matter that may be between the leaves of the plant.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 27, additionally comprising advancing and retracting the nozzle between leaves of the plant at a plurality of locations.

29-32. Cancelled

33. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 23, comprising rotating the handle about an axis of rotation generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the nozzle.

34. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 19, wherein water flow is simultaneously directed upwardly and downwardly.

35. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 19, wherein the elongate body portion and the nozzle portion are substantially straight and have substantially the same longitudinal axis.

36. (Previously Added) A method of removing insects from and cleaning an interior portion of a leafy plant having a first region and a second region that are disposed at different vertical elevations, comprising:

providing a hand held spraying apparatus having a handle, an elongate body having a length of at least about one foot, and a nozzle at a distal end of the elongate

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body, the nozzle configured to direct a flow of water outwardly generally around a longitudinal axis of the nozzle portion, the nozzle portion fixedly connected to the handle and being configured to move with the handle;

placing the spraying apparatus into communication with a source of water under pressure;

while maintaining the nozzle axis in a generally horizontal attitude, repeatedly advancing and retracting the nozzle into and out of the interior portion of the plant at a plurality of locations in the first region so that water flow is directed onto undersides of interior leaves of the plant and top sides of interior leaves of the plant;

rotating the apparatus about the handle at least about 90° to change the elevation of the nozzle axis from a position in the first region to a position in the second region without substantially changing its generally horizontal attitude; and

advancing and retracting the nozzle into and out of the interior portion of the plant at a plurality of locations in the second region.

37. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 36 additionally comprising holding the elongate body at a generally horizontal attitude while advancing and retracting the nozzle.

38. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 37, wherein the elongate body is at least 18 inches long.

39. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 23, wherein the handle is bent about 30-60° at the bend point.

40. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 19, comprising rotating the apparatus about 90° while keeping the longitudinal axis of the nozzle generally horizontally disposed during rotation, and advancing and retracting the nozzle generally horizontally into and out of the plant a plurality of times while rotating the apparatus.